The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 19, 2013, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the agenda for this August 19, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA Monday, August 19, 2013 10:00 AM

10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer Motion on Agenda for August 19, 2013, Meeting Motion on Minutes for August 5, 2013, Meeting

10:05 A. Rita Miller - Tax Administrator

- 1. <u>July Releases and Refunds</u> Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on report. <u>Actions Requested</u> Vote on releases and refunds.
- 2. <u>July Collections Report</u> Monthly 2013 collection rates through July as compared to 2012 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
- 3. <u>Enforced Collections Report</u> Summarizes enforced collections for the month of July 2013. No action requested
- 4. <u>Payment Agreement Report</u> List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
- 5. <u>Residential Solid Waste Fee Release Request</u> -- <u>Action Requested</u> Vote on the release request.
- 10:15 B. <u>Jimmy Church</u> Commander of Alleghany Honor Guard

RE: 9/11 Service Invitation

- 10:25 C. <u>Board of Elections Annual Report</u> Kate Cosner, Elections Director
- 10:35 D. <u>Planning Annual Report</u> -- Travis Dalton, Planner
- 10:45 E. Forestry Service Annual Report Brandon Keener, County Forest Ranger
- 10:55 F. General Business
 - 1. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Report.
 Required status report on housing program. No action requested.
 - 2. Employee Wellness Program

A summary of the 2013/14 Wellness Program will be presented.

- G. <u>Commissioner Comments</u>
- H. Public Comments—30 minutes
- I. <u>Closed Session</u>—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
- J. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the July auto releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the July auto releases. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the July auto refunds.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the July auto refunds. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the July real property releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the July real property releases. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the July real property refunds.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the July real property refunds. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the July 2013 collections' report.

Rita Miller presented the enforced collection report and the payment agreement report.

Rita Miller presented a request for release of residential solid waste fee at 306 Kilby Road. She explained that the property owners do not live here and have no intention to do so. She stated that Georgia Billings visited the property and said it wasn't in livable condition.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about the taxes are current, this request is for 2014 and is her recommendation.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Tax Administrator. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Rita Miller updated everyone that the new tag/tax bills are being sent out, and they have training on it this afternoon. She said that things are going smooth so far.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

Jimmy Church, Commander of Alleghany Honor Guard, invited everyone to attend the first annual 9/11 memorial service. He explained that it will be at Sparta Elementary School on Saturday, September 7. He further explained that they are going to have a field of flags event starting at 9:00am then have a service at 6:00pm. He said if anyone wishes to speak to call Ken Smith so they can plan the event.

Commissioner Leys and Jimmy Church talked about the event is on September 7.

Commissioner Leys and Jimmy Church talked about the number of members they currently have. He talked about the military will be there to represent the Pentagon. He welcomed everyone to come. They talked about the group has been in service for 2 years.

Kate Cosner, Elections Director, presented the annual report for the Board of Elections including voter registration changes. She talked about the voter population is 63.6% of the overall population. She summarized the election held since her last annual year. She talked about there is a new State Board of Elections with a new Executive Director and having new local board of elections. She stated that the polling place inspections have been completed. She talked about the candidates for the upcoming Town elections, the recent open house held, offering precinct official certifications classes and the purpose of the classes. She talked about the voter ID/elections reform omnibus bill. She explained how the bill affects Alleghany County including the shortening of one-stop but must maintain the same number of hours as the prior mid-term election, elimination of same-day registrations and preregistrations of 16 years old. She talked about voter ID and the possibilities of a mobile DMV office coming to assist people who don't have ID. She said they removed straight party ticket voting. She talked about the statute calls for a Presidential Preference Primary on the first Tuesday following the South Carolina if theirs is prior to March 15. She talked about HB 607 did not go forward but HB 589 did so and counties having until January 2018 to prepare for machines to have paper ballots.

Commissioner Leys and Kate Cosner talked about the costs of the Presidential Preference Primary would be approximately \$13,000. They talked about the requirement of the second primary and that law hasn't changed. They further talked about the reasoning of having the Presidential Preference Primary prior to Super Tuesday, and the legislators did not want to move the May primary for all of the other races.

Commissioner Smith and Kate Cosner talked about the Voter ID bill is mandated for 2016 and will use 2014 to provide information to the public. They talked about changes in the provisional process includes if someone doesn't have their ID they can vote using a provisional ballot and another change is if someone votes in the incorrect precinct then they will not be allowed to vote.

Commissioner Leys and Kate Cosner talked about working diligently to make sure people know what precinct they are supposed to vote in.

Kate Cosner said that polls will close at 7:30pm and those who are in line will be able to vote.

Commissioner Leys and Kate Cosner talked about options available for people who do not have a photo ID. Commissioner Leys said she thinks it should be easier for people to vote and people should be able to come to the Board of Elections for their picture ID. They talked about the option of the mobile unit coming since our DMV office isn't open every day.

Kate Cosner talked about as she learns more she will keep the Board updated.

Travis Dalton, Planner, presented the annual report for the Planning Department. He reviewed information about the number/types of building permits reviewed, development review, commercial permits, conditional use permits, plat review, Planning Board meeting and proposed ordinance changes, regional hazard mitigation update plan. He talked about passing all of his level II tests and obtaining his continuing education for his floodplain manager certification.

Commissioner Smith and Travis Dalton talked about his review of the building permits and how these numbers compare to the previous years.

Commissioner Leys and Travis Dalton talked about the amount of time involved to receive the level III certifications.

Brandon Keener, County Ranger, presented the Forestry Service's annual report. He talked about the forest management, number/types of plans written, number of acres planted, timber stand program involvement, working on ways to improve timber, inspected 19 different tracts of land which had multiple inspections, current/pending requests for plans. He further talked about the fire control portion and reviewed the number of fires, warning tickets issued from the fires and one was a naturally-caused fire. He said that the number of fires so far this year have been more than last year. He thanked each fire department because they are the ones who keeps the fires so small. He talked about two fire departments are involved in a 50/50 program with them for wild land fire fighting equipment. He talked about their outreach events educating the public. He said they assist with pest control and the number/types of pest control.

County Manager Don Adams presented the July 2013 Monthly Performance Status Report for the Scattered Site Program. He explained the report and stated that this is a required monthly report.

County Manager Don Adams talked about wellness program that is being implemented. He reminded everyone that we switched from CIGNA to Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) on July 1. He explained that BCBS have multiple wellness programs, this is our wellness program and we could earn up to 5% savings, which is \$50,000. He further explained the wellness program including employees need to earn at least 125 credits for the savings. He reviewed the different types of program activities in the wellness program. He said that for people who don't have access to a computer he will make a day available at the BDC and BCBS will send someone to help those employees. He continued reviewing the program activities. He explained the wellness program calendar by reviewing each month with the topics and activities available for employees monthly. He talked about this is very achievable. He further talked about he would like to put some incentives behind this. He explained that the insurance company will look at the overall points not just the 125. He said he is proposing incentives and provided examples. He said he is looking at getting this out of the insurance money. He talked about we are already seeing good responses.

Chair Cox said this sounds like a win-win for everyone.

Commissioner Davis said this is good idea to save money and help employees in the long run.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about this sounds like a good program. He asked the County Attorney if gift certificates are considered income.

County Attorney Donna Shumate said she hasn't looked at it.

County Manager Don Adams talked about we have an opinion that the gift certificates aren't income. He said we will check into it.

Commissioner Smith said it sounds like there is already a lot of enthusiasm.

Commissioner Leys talked about this is a nice program for the employees, and state employees are doing something similar that will save on their premiums. She talked about the amount of money saved in the long run with the wellness program. She said she would like to see this continue in some fashion.

County Manager Don Adams talked about working with BCBS because our plan will change. He said the message to the employees is we must get healthier because we can't sustain the increases. He talked about the reports available from the wellness program and types of information available from the reports.

Commissioner Leys talked about the importance of nutrition.

Chair Cox said it sounds like the Commissioners are all in agreement and the County Attorney will report back at the next meeting about the gift certificates being income.

Commissioner Leys asked if Kate Cosner could come to the next meeting to present what constitutes proper ID.

County Manager Don Adams and Commissioner Leys talked about the possibility of her coming to a day meeting.

Chair Cox talked about work is beginning on the Veterans Park. He recognized Josh Greene, Joey Jones, Brian Killon and Mark Pardue for their work on the Park and CJ Hardware helped with good pricing and appreciates the hard work plus working with the County.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he did price out the materials, and Scott Smith is working with the County on the equipment.

Chair Cox announced that there was a surprise inspection on our EMS vehicle and Rescue Squad vehicle. He said that they passed with no problems. He thanked Linda Edwards and Carroll Royall for their work on this.

Chair Cox opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for public comments.

Dennis Smith explained about the Schools is one of the largest expenses for Alleghany County. He asked what kind of return we are getting on that investment. He talked about the beginning of education was teaching children to read their bibles and in Sunday school. He explained the purpose of this and said that the founders understood education as essential element to maintain the form of government that they had established. He quoted Thomas Jefferson. He asked is it any surprise of the deliberate coming down of America. He talked about new research shows the average IQ is falling. He referred to Jefferson's quote. He asked who benefits from a dumb and dumber population. He said if you don't believe this then to consider a 1912 8th grade exam from Bullitt County Schools, Kentucky. He quoted examples from the exam. He asked wouldn't it be interesting to see how Alleghany County 8th graders would score on this exam. He talked about an analysis that created a test to gauge the ability of citizens to exercise oversight by making fake petitions and provided examples. He said the scary thing about this test was that most people who were asked to sign the petitions, did so. He asked how can Alleghany County taxpayers know if the students educated in our schools are any different than those who signed the petitions. He asked again what kind of return we are getting on our investment on education. He asked are Alleghany students being educated sufficiently to exercise oversight on the government. He said that it would appear that our generation is somewhat lacking in that ability. He read a prayer from the West Point prayer book.

Chair Cox asked for additional public comments. None were received. He closed the public comments' portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel at 11:35am. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn closed session at 12:05pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox stated that no actions were taken in closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn at 12:06pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted, Attest:

Karen Evans Larry Cox Clerk to the Board Chairman